

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS ABUJA 001040

SIPDIS

AF/W FOR AMBASSADOR JETER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [MASS](#) [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [EFIN](#) [NI](#)

SUBJECT: THE MPRI PAYMENT SAGA

REF: ABUJA 442

1. SUMMARY: After numerous low, medium and high-level conversations with officials at the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Finance, Central Bank of Nigeria, and the Presidency, Post believes payment of USD 3.2 million for the MPRI reprofessionalization program may be received within one week. (USD 300,000 is still pending foreign exchange approval from the Ministry of Finance.) END SUMMARY.

2. On May 7, EconOff spoke with Mr. Stephen Oshungboye, Director of Foreign Operations at the Central Bank of Nigeria, who said he had no records regarding the MPRI payment. EconOff faxed Oshungboye copies of the April 18 letter from the Minister of Defense to the CBN requesting electronic transfer of USD 3.2 million. Post obtained a copy of the letter from the Minister of State for Army's office shortly after it was sent. (COMMENT: The letter from the Minister of Defense was originally directed to Oshungboye. END COMMENT.) According to materials supplied Post by the Ministry of Defense, the remainder (approximately USD 300,000) of the USD 3.5 million is pending foreign exchange approval from the Ministry of Finance.

3. On May 8, Oshungboye informed EconOff that the check, which had accompanied the April 18 letter, had not been endorsed properly by the Ministry of Defense and had been returned to the Ministry for correction. When asked how quickly the payment could be transferred once the corrected check is received, Oshungboye said that could take 24 to 48 hours. Subsequently, EconOff called Lawal Balarabe, Special Assistant to the Minister of State for the Army, who promised to expedite correction of the check that same day (May 8).

4. Post will inform Department once the GON advises that the transfer has been effected.
Andrews